

Message Text

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51

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ADP-00 AID-20 CEA-02 CIAE-00 COME-00

EB-11 FRB-02 INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 CIEP-02 STR-08

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5384

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS UNN

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

USMISSION GENEVA

USMISSION OECD PARIS UNN

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE EC BRUSSELS 3410

E. O. 11652 NA

TAGS: ETRD, EEC, AFRICA

SUBJ: EC NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE AFRICAN ASSOCIATED AND

COMMONWEALTH ASSOCIABLE COUNTRIES: EC COMMISSION

DRAFT MANDATE

REFS: A. EC 1817

B. EC 1818

C. EC BRUSSELS A-167

D. EC BRUSSELS A-239

E. EC BRUSSELS 3347

1. SUMMARY: THE EC COMMISSION HAS JUST PREPARED A

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DRAFT NEGOTIATING MANDATE FOR EC COUNCIL CONSIDERATION
LOOKING TOWARD THE FORTHCOMING YAOUNDE AND COMMONWEALTH
NEGOTIATIONS. THE TEXT IS NOT YET AVAILABLE TO US
BUT RELIABLE SOURCES STATE THAT IT IS BASED ON THE
THE MAIN ELEMENTS OF THE COMMISSION'S REPORT OF LAST
APRIL. END SUMMARY.

2. THE EC COMMISSION HAS FORWARDED TO THE MEMBER
STATES FOR DISCUSSION AND APPROVAL A SHORT DRAFT MANDATE
WHICH WOULD COVER THE NEGOTIATION OF A YAOUNDE- TYPE
ASSOCIATION BETWEEN THE COMMUNITY AND ELIGIBLE AFRICAN
AND COMMONWEALTH COUNTRIES. THIS DRAFT MANDATE IS
PART OF THE COMMUNITY PREPARATIONS FOR: (A) NEGOTIATIONS
WITH THESE COUNTRIES WHICH PROBABLY WILL BEGIN IN
SEPTEMBER AND (B) A PRE NEGOTIATION CONFERENCE WITH THE
SAME COUNTRIES TO BE HELD IN LATE JULY. COMMISSION
OFFICIALS TELL US THAT THE DOCUMENT IS BASED ENTIRELY
ON THE COMMISSION MEMORANDUM PUBLISHED IN APRIL (SEE
REFS). AS SUCH, IT NOTABLY INCLUDES THE COMMISSION
RECOMMENDATION THAT SUCH AN ASSOCIATION BE BASED ON A
FREE TRADE AREA APPROACH AND AGAINUNDERSCORES THE POINT
THAT LDC PARTICIPANTS WILL BE FREE TO EXTEND SIMILAR
TREATMENT TO OTHER THIRD COUNTRIES.

3. OUR SOURCES ALSO STRESS THAT THIS MANDATE COVERS
ONLY ONE OF THE POSSIBLE FORMULAS FOR RELATIONSHIPS
BETWEEN THE COMMUNITY AND THE LDC'S IN QUESTION. SHOULD
SOME OF THE ELIGIBLE COUNTRIES SEEK A DIFFERENT FORM
OF RELATIONSHIP WITH THE COMMUNITY THE
COMMISSION WILL PRODUCE APPROPRIATE AND SEPARATE
NEGOTIATING MANDATES FOR SUCH ARRANGEMENTS.

4. WE HAVE NOT YET SEEN THE MANDATE ITSELF BUT ARE
TOLD THAT IT CALLS FOR THE COMMUNITY TO OFFER TO THE
AFRICANS EXEMPTIONS FROM CUSTOMS DUTIES AND RESTRICTIONS
ON THE IMPORTS OF MOST AFRICAN PRODUCTS FROM THE
OUTSET. FOR THOSE PRODUCTS NOW SUBJECT TO COMMUNITY
MARKET ORGANIZATION (CAP ITEMS) ELIGIBLE LDC'S WOULD
BE OFFERED SPECIAL TREATMENT MORE FAVORABLE THAN THAT
PROVIDED OTHER THIRD COUNTRIES. THE PARTNER COUNTRIES
WOULD BE ALLOWED TO ESTABLISH FREE ENTRY FOR COMMUNITY
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GOODS AT A SOMEWHAT SLOWER PACE, AND THEY WOULD BE
ALLOWED TO MAINTAIN OR ESTABLISH DUTIES OR OTHER
EQUIVALENT TAXES TO MEET DEVELOPMENT OR BUDGETARY
REQUIREMENTS.

5. THE MANDATE ALSO CALLS FOR THE COMMUNITY TO
NEGOTIATE A MECHANISM FOR THE STABILIZATION OF EXPORT

EARNINGS FOR CERTAIN COMMODITIES SOLD TO THE COMMUNITY
BY THE LDC'S PARTICIPATING IN THE PROPOSED ASSOCIATION
(REFS B, D, E).

6. THE MANDATE ALSO COVERS IN GENERAL TERMS FINANCIAL
AND TECHNICAL COOPERATION THAT WOULD BE PROVIDED TO THE
ELIGIBLE LDC COUNTRIES BUT MAKES NOT ATTEMPT TO FIX THE
LEVEL OF THAT AID. IN THIS REGARD THE COMMISSION IS
PROPOSING THAT FINANCIAL AID TO THESE COUNTRIES BE
FINANCED OUT OF THE COMMUNITY'S OWN RESOURCES.

7. THE MANDATE ALSO RECOMMENDS THAT MOST OF THE
INSTITUTIONS EXISTING UNDER THE YAOUNDE II CONVENTION
BE CONTINUED IN BASICALLY THEIR SAME FORM IN ANY
FOLLOW-ON CONVENTION.

8. THE MISSION IS ATTEMPTING TO OBTAIN A COPY OF THE
TEXT OF THE MANDATE AND WILL FORWARD IT TO THE DEPARTMENT
WHEN AVAILABLE.

9. DEPARTMENT REPEAT AFRICAN POSTS AS DESIRED.
GREENWALD

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*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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